



TASK FORCE LIBERTY

Press Release

Headquarters, 42nd Infantry Division
Tikrit, Iraq (FOB Danger)
APO AE 09308
Civilian: 703-621-4610
E-mail: Fortysecond.ID.PAO@us.army.mil

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 7, 2005

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, TIKRIT, Iraq – The mission of Task Force Liberty and Iraqi security forces is moving forward apace with the effort of its citizens to lay the foundations of a strong, independent, stable and free Iraq.

Based on information from an Iraqi citizen, the 5th Iraqi Army Division's 2nd Brigade and 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor raided a house in Babd Durab village June 25, capturing 16,500 rounds of rifle ammunition, weapons parts and improvised explosive device (IED) making material. The soldiers detained four individuals during the joint operation.

In Bayji, the 4th Iraqi Army Division's 1st Brigade and 1st Battalion, 103rd Armor discovered a weapons cache June 30. The cache contained various munitions used in IEDs, indirect fire and vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) attacks.

Tips from Iraqi citizens helped Iraqi army soldiers and police capture over 200 mortar rounds, 40 artillery rounds, numerous boxes of rifle ammunition and a mortar tube in Buhriz June 18 and 20. Twenty-nine individuals were detained in the operations.

Iraqi soldiers searched the town of Mufrek June 15, detaining four individuals in an operation planned by the Iraqi army. Coalition Forces acted as advisors.

Meanwhile, governance is the buzz all over Task Force Liberty's area of operations, as elections, and the free dialogue that accompanies them, are gaining currency. The town of Amerlee recently elected six persons to city council. The election commission from Tikrit took ensured a fair and safe election, and Iraqi army and police secured election sites.

The Mayor of Samarra, Mahmood Khalaf Ahmed, recorded a radio message June 20 and addressed upcoming elections, provincial assistance, unemployment, security and the plan to improve the public works of the city. Mayor Mahmood also addressed his



vision for reconstruction and his support of the Iraqi Police and the Iraqi security forces in Samarra.

The Kirkuk Provincial Council elected a governor, a chief council member and a deputy chief council member June 21. The council also approved of three new positions, two assistants for the governor and a mayor. The deputy governor position remains available and will be elected in the future. The Iraqi Media Network television talk show focused on the success of the Kirkuk Provincial Council's leadership elections and how it will affect progress in Kirkuk. Rizgar Ali, the new chief council member, said the council left the deputy governor position open for a Turkoman in case they decide to participate. "Our doors are always open," he commented. Host Ali Hussein also questioned Rizgar about several issues facing Kirkuk, including the detainee issue, progress on projects, Iraqi displaced persons and creating the new Iraqi constitution.

Baqubah's mayor met with Task Force Liberty personnel June 27 to discuss political boundaries, ongoing security issues and a major irrigation canal project that will benefit the farmers of Buhriz. The mayor and area muktars met with the 5th Iraqi Army Division's 4th Brigade commander June 20 to plan a campaign to rid their city of insurgents. City leaders agreed to work with Iraqi security forces, and are encouraging citizens to come forward with any information that will help in the effort.

The Iraqi Company for Agricultural Products (ICAP) held a training session on forming a Farmer's Cooperative and developing by-laws for local farmers June 28. Once ICAP develops the by-laws and has a business plan, it will be ready to apply for funding to start a co-op to aid all Iraqis in the Taza, Daquq and Laylan region.

In response to the recent outbreak of polio cases around the world, The Kirkuk Directorate of Health & Iraq Ministry of Health, in cooperation with the World Health Organization and UNICEF, started a polio vaccination campaign June 19. The Kirkuk Department of Health has 318 teams prepared to go house to house to vaccinate an estimated 148,000 eligible children (up to five years of age) in Kirkuk Province. Teams are also stationed at select checkpoints around the city to give vaccinations.



Medics of 1st Battalion, 103rd Armor and the Iraqi army conducted a multi-spectrum humanitarian aid and assistance operation June 20. Over 160 patients were treated and boxes of toys, clothes, school supplies and foodstuffs were distributed to locals.

Breaking the Cycle of Violence

In the last two weeks, Task Force Liberty operations have resulted in an estimated 14 anti-Iraqi forces killed, three wounded, and 187 detained. Significant ammunition seized included more than 4,369 rocket, mortar, artillery and tank rounds, 411 small arms weapons and grenades, 28,587 rounds of small arms ammunition, 51 mines, 11,211 rocket propelled grenade launchers, and 120 rocket propelled grenade rounds. Major equipment found included 12 sniper rifles, 318,900 anti-aircraft rounds, 417 assorted fuses and 116 pounds of explosives. Task Force Liberty operations have also seized about \$13 million worth of Iraqi Dinar. Within the division's area of responsibility, 53 improvised explosive devices were discovered prior to detonation, preventing the needless loss of life at the hands of anti-Iraqi forces.

1st Brigade Combat Team (Raider). Salah Ad Din province security forces are readying for the coming elections by tightening security throughout the region.

Iraqi police visited polling sites in the Az Zawiyah area to check the status of force protection for future elections. When assessments are complete, Iraqi security forces will implement sound security measures.

Iraqi police were also out in force in Balad June 27. Working with the Civilian Police Assistance Training Team, Iraqi police conducted traffic control point training. Balad Police operate eight fixed checkpoints and conduct many flash check points as part of the Balad security plan. The training was designed to help Balad Police in their efforts to stop the flow of weapons into Balad, as well as the transportation of car bombs through the area. Iraqi army soldiers are also in the mix, conducting independent operations and finding weapons caches and insurgents.

Acting on a tip from a local source, Iraqi soldiers conducted a raid in Bayji June 26 which turned up three AK-47 rifles and a rocket propelled grenade sight. One person was detained for questioning, and a computer was confiscated for further investigation.



Iraqi soldiers helped Task Force Liberty's 1st Battalion, 103rd Armor secure and remove a weapons cache just north of Bayji June 30. The munitions found were consistent with those used recently in roadside bombs, mortar attacks, mines, and car bomb attacks.

Other services are improving across Salah Ad Din. Owja Hospital, once Saddam Hussein's personal hospital and closed since his regime's fall, was reopened June 27. Sheik Mahmoud and Dr. Hasian, held a ribbon cutting ceremony during the grand opening.

3rd Brigade Combat Team (Sledgehammer). The training of Iraqi soldiers and police continues in 3rd BCT's sector along with progress in the area of governance.

In Diyala, Iraqi police and soldiers trained with Coalition Forces on how to stabilize patients so they can be moved to a higher-level treatment. In addition, medics of 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor trained Iraqi army medics to enhance their combat lifesaving skills in a five-day class with instruction on human anatomy, patient assessment, applying tourniquets, dressing open wounds, applying splints to fractures and initiating IV therapy.

Iraqi army and 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor soldiers conducted "Train the Trainer" courses recently. The focus of this training was to train a cadre of Iraqi army NCOs capable of developing their own training program using the eight-step training model. Each NCO taught a squad 10 tasks under the supervision of a Coalition Forces instructor-trainer. Key tasks taught included building clearing, crossing a danger area and providing cover for a maneuvering patrol.

Iraqi soldiers conducted the third checkpoint transfer of authority to the Iraqi police in mid-June in order to strengthen police presence in Samarra.

Citizens of Hamrin attended the first mayoral debate in early July between the candidates of the upcoming interim-elections. The debate provided an opportunity for mayoral candidates to advocate their stances on issues affecting the town of Hamrin.

A certificate of appreciation was presented to the Fire Chief of Muqdadiyah for assisting 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry extinguish a military vehicle that caught fire in mid-June. In addition, Soldiers of Task Force Liberty's 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry, on their



own initiative and with the overwhelming generosity of family members back home, gathered numerous boxes of pens, pencils, notebooks, coloring books, crayons and toys to donate to the children of Abu Sayda. The Soldiers distributed all of the products to the children, and explained to them and to their families that the gifts were sent from the people of the United States who, like the citizens of Abu Sayda, aspire to see a safe and prosperous Iraq.

116th Brigade Combat Team (Warrior). Even as the sector was hit by terrorist attacks, Iraqi security forces showed initiative, keeping up the fight alongside their 116th BCT counterparts. While the fight goes on, training goes on, as Iraqi security forces acquire the sophistication needed to defeat the insurgents.

In Al Andalus, Iraqi police and Task Force Liberty Soldiers pursued and stopped a vehicle after the driver fired at them June 24. The driver abandoned his vehicle and ran, continuing to fire at the Iraqi police. The police returned fire, wounding the assailant. Despite the efforts of Coalition Forces medical personnel, the driver later died.

An Iraqi soldier stopped a VBIED from passing through a checkpoint near Hawijah June 20. The terrorist detonated the explosive device, killing himself and wounding the soldier. The wounded soldier was treated at a Coalition Forces medical facility.

Azadi Police and soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 116th Cavalry found a massive VBIED June 22. The patrol cordoned off the area, and Iraqi explosive-ordnance personnel secured 19 artillery rounds of various calibers. Iraqi police also secured the grand opening of the Sammi Al Assi Health Clinic against terrorist threats June 21. The police involved the community by coordinating local neighborhood security through local Sheik Maad Al Assi.

Over 100 soldiers of the 4th Iraqi Army Division's 2nd and 3rd Brigades graduated from the Initial Entry Training Course at the Tikrit Training Center June 25. Awards were presented to the honor graduates and the soldiers who received high marks during the course.

In Sulaymaniyah, Iraqi soldiers received civil disturbance training June 22. The training involves resolving domestic issues escalation of force procedures. More than two dozen Iraqis graduated from the Iraqi Highway Patrol Academy June 28. During the



four-week course, the graduates learned marksmanship, security and driving skills. Upon graduation, the students returned to Kirkuk with twenty new pickup trucks and 10 new medium machine-guns to be used in their daily operations.

Based on information from the Dibis police, the Iraqi army and police discovered 46 anti-tank rounds June 23. Coalition Forces destroyed the ordnance. In addition, Dibis Police found an IED July 1. The Iraqi army secured the site and the IED was destroyed.

The people of the Ghazia village recently shared the cost of the Ghazia Road project by providing labor for it. Local workers in Bushiriya are hurrying to complete a needed medical clinic in the village that will provide services for approximately 200 displaced families. Using Coalition Forces funding, local leaders and residents in Shumeyt Village remodeled a mosque June 21. The walls were painted and air coolers, a water dispenser, carpet, fans and new entry tile were installed.

278th Regimental Combat Team (The Volunteers). The 278th Regimental Combat Team (RCT) from the Tennessee Army National Guard continues its build up and training of Iraqi security forces to better prepare them to secure their country.

The 278th RCT's Judge Advocate General's held the first-of-its-kind legal training academy for the Iraqi Police to teach them the Iraqi rule of law. Topics included the Iraqi Criminal Code of 1979, individual legal rights under Iraqi law, criminal procedures and the application of the Iraqi military and civil code. Lt. Col. Salah, a part-time attorney for the Iraqi Department of Border Enforcement, helped teach classes. The first class of Iraqi policemen graduated June 23, and 10 more classes are planned.

A tip from an Iraqi citizen led Iraqi security forces and 278th RCT soldiers to a cache of over five hundred 57 mm anti-aircraft shells in the village of Dalish on June 22. The cache was destroyed by the 278th RCT.

A joint task force made up of Iraqi security forces and personnel from all U.S. military branches destroyed two insurgent cave complexes near Tuz on June 23. The insurgents were using the caves as an operations base to launch attacks against Iraqi security forces and Coalition Forces. The caves were discovered during a joint air and land operation by Iraqi security forces and soldiers of 2nd Squadron, 278th Cavalry. The Mayor of Tuz, aided by the local joint coordination center, explained to Tuz residents the



need to destroy the caves. A Coalition Forces aircraft dropped two 2,000 pound bombs to collapse the cave entrances.

42nd Aviation Brigade (Eagle). Task Force Eagle, part of Task Force Liberty, supports 42nd Infantry Division units with battlefield circulation missions, area and route reconnaissance and convoy escort missions.

Weather remains a strong limiting factor. Dust storms and high winds have plagued aviation operations, keeping aircraft grounded. Reduced visibility due to these dust storms has reduced the number of total hours flown over the last two weeks.

The Apaches and Kiowa Warriors, the mobile fire power of the aviation brigade, have flown over one thousand hours in the last two weeks. The 8th Battalion 229th Attack Helicopter has played a key role in providing area recon over the region's oil infrastructure. The 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry has provided reconnaissance and security in support of the BCTs, and Task Force Freedom in Mosul.

The lift helicopter battalions, 1st Battalion, 150th Aviation and 1st Battalion, 140th Aviation have flown a total of over 800 hours in the last two weeks. Most of these hours accumulated through battlefield circulation missions.

The 642nd Aviation Support Battalion has continued around the clock support maintaining the aviation brigade's aircraft. They have also continued the Outkast express, which maintains the supply chain of parts coming out of Balad. They ensure there are parts always on hand for both aircraft and the ground vehicles.

Division Artillery (Thunder). On June 24 FOB Summerall received four civilian contract Dual Purpose Explosive Detection Dog Teams (DPEDD). Division Artillery (Divarty) is responsible for housing the animals and the handlers.

The DPEDD teams are tasked out to BCTs to help them find indirect fire launch sites, weapons caches and insurgents. Teams are loaned to units for a couple of weeks at a time. The animals pose no threat to people or property. They are highly trained and will not bite.

Divarty has ensured proper living conditions which allow the handlers and the animals to live together. This helps maintain the bond between the handlers and animals. The extreme temperatures in Iraq require special considerations, including air



conditioned living facilities to ease the transition to Iraq and give the animals a healthy living environment.

The arrival of the DPEDD Teams ensures a higher level of safety and security for the BCTs on the ground and the civilians they come in contact with.

Division Engineers (Detonator). Task Force Trailblazer of the 467th Engineer Battalion maintains mobility throughout Task Force Liberty's area of operations by finding and neutralizing IEDs and UXOs before they hurt or kill Coalition Forces, Iraqi security forces, contractors or Iraqi civilians. They are on the main supply routes seven days a week.

Soldiers of the 793rd Engineer Detachment (Utility) and Company C, 983rd Engineer Battalion are improving Task Force Liberty's force protection measures and quality of life, to include plumbing and electrical upgrades. They are also assisting in FOB closings and transfers. Recently they spent a significant amount of effort in re-establishing the defensive perimeter of the Tikrit Special Forces compound. Daily these soldiers install and repair infrastructure that makes life safer and more comfortable for Coalition Forces soldiers, sailors, and airmen.

The Engineer Brigade is also working with the Iraqi Ministers of Power, Buildings-Health & Education, Security & Justice, Transportation, and Oil to ensure the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the critical infrastructure facilities in the cities of Bayji, Kirkuk and As Sulaymaniyah. Much of this effort is in teaching the Iraqi people how to do the job and support themselves.

Division Support Command (Muleskinner). 42nd Division Support Command (DISCOM) focuses on supporting the 42nd Infantry Division and its full spectrum operations, coordinating support battalions within the BCTs with monthly net calls and logistical conferences. The June conference included all support battalion commanders and representatives from the 101st Air Assault Division combat service and support units. The conference spurred a great dialogue between commanders and set the stage for uninterrupted logistic support throughout the battlefield.



The Division Material Management Center cell for Iraqi security forces is receiving and storing equipment for the BCTs to issue to the Iraqi security forces, and making Russian equipment and trucks fully mission capable prior to issue to the BCTs.

The DISCOM movement control officer and support operation officer coordinate support requirements for all units throughout Task Force Liberty's area of operations. Over the past two weeks, there have been a total of 374 Combat Logistics Patrols (CLPs) tracked, 104 Transportation Movement Requests (TMRs) processed and 61 Air Movement Requests (AMRs) processed. Two aerial logistics mission were flown, moving priority classes of supply to FOBs. The movement control officer monitors the progress of assembly areas movement of equipment from Iraq to Kuwait.

The 50th Main Support Battalion (MSB) provides support throughout Task Force Liberty's area of operations. During the past two weeks, the battalion logged a total of 734,800 miles. This unit has run a total of 325 CLPs since opening operations, while supporting 852 missions. The supply routes traveled are considered the most dangerous in Iraq. Company B, 50th MSB lost a dedicated and patriotic soldier due to a VCIED. The unit will truly miss this soldier and our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.

The DISCOM Military Transition Team continues to provide instruction on combat service and support operations at Kirkuk and FOB Caldwell. The team is involved in developing a base support unit and creating a mission essential task list for its commanders and staff. This will be the base document for all training and resource allocations. Team leadership has done a great job providing the Iraqi base support unit commanders with the resources they need to support their Iraqi Army.

Task Force Exodus early retrograde operations have begun, led by the 1035th Maintenance Company at Camp Victory, Kuwait. The operation helps the division by shipping over 3,000 pieces of equipment ahead of the main body, decreasing the workload during division redeployment operations.

Conclusion

Task Force Liberty and our Iraqi Security Force partners continue to help provide a safe and secure Iraq. We continue to work with the Iraqi Security Forces to neutralize



the insurgency. We continue to train, coach and support the Iraqi Security Forces as they develop their own independent capabilities to defeat the insurgency and improve the quality of life for the Iraqi people. We believe in the future of Iraq. To our families, friends, employers and the American people, Task Force Liberty thanks you for your steadfast support and encouragement.

Never Forget!

For more information on the 42nd Infantry Division and Task Force Liberty:

www.42id.army.mil